

**From:** Jerry Myers  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/20/01 8:29pm  
**Subject:** the proposed Microsoft settlement is a joke.

I am truly appalled that an agreement as blatantly supportive of Microsoft is even being seriously considered. It does NOTHING to address their behavior at all.

Other than the dollar amount involved it actually serves to extend and support their monopoly by adding even more windows machines to schools.

This is like punishing a drug dealer by making him give away most of his supply of crack cocaine to schoolchildren.

You may think this is too harsh of a comparison. It is not. The situation is exactly like that.

"We will give them free software (ours)" offers Microsoft. This will ensure that, later in life, they are a part of the Microsoft masses.

"We will get them a bunch of \$500 (or less) computers" says Microsoft. Which, incidentally, will not buy anything by Microsoft compatible computers, so the "they can buy Apple Macintoshes if they want" argument is completely spurious. Ignorant School Boards will always choose to get more machines for the dollar, ignoring all other factors (cost of ownership/support/etc). Microsoft KNOWS that. They encourage it.

So do the IT guys who get bigger budgets because they have to spend tons of man hours supporting those windows machines. So they encourage buying Microsoft as well.

The harm that Microsoft has done to the consumer and to the computer industry as a whole is hard to judge. What would our world be like of Microsoft would have allowed their products to compete on their own merits instead of engaging in all of the seedy and outright abusive tactics that they have?

Would we have IBM's OS2 Operating system forcing Microsoft's products to be less buggy and better supported?

Would Apple, SUN, and SGI (among others) be more of a presence in the marketplace? Thereby forcing an even higher level of innovation, quality, and lower prices?

I think the answer to both is a resounding YES.

PLEASE do not allow Microsoft to walk away from this with no measures in place to correct it's position and it's policies.

When a man is convicted of a felony he loses certain rights. When a company commits certain crimes (repeatedly) then they should be penalized in ways that would never be considered for a company not guilty of those offenses.

Do what is right. Do what is best for our businesses, our consumers, and our economy. Force Microsoft into a position where they cannot repeat their offenses. AND penalize them for having committed them in the first place.

If you do not, then you have failed in your oath of office.

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-Jerry Myers